

Message Text

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ACTION EB-07

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FM AMEMBASSY ROME

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAIR, IT

SUBJECT: CIVAIR - CIVAIR CONSULTATIONS WITH GOI:

 EXTRA SECTIONS

1. BOTH PAA AND TWA LOCAL REPS HAVE INFORMED EMBASSY THAT US HEADQUARTERS HAVE REQUESTED THEM PROVIDE DETAILED INFORMATION ON EXTRA SECTIONS --APPLICATIONS MADE, NUMBER APPROVED AND NUMBER REFUSED BY CIVILAVIA-- OVER LAST TWO YEARS. DATA REPORTEDLY WILL BE USED DURING FORTHCOMING CIVAIR CONSULTATIONS.

2. WHILE ABOVE WILL PROVIDE USEFUL QUANTITATIVE INSIGHTS, EMBASSY WISHES STRESS RELEVANT QUALITATIVE FACTORS.

(A) EXTRA PASSENGER SECTIONS. US CARRIERS HAVE, OVER LAST TWO YEARS, ONLY RARELY REQUESTED EXTRA PASSENGER SECTIONS. LOCAL REPS STATE THAT, BECUASE OF CONSISTENT TURNDOWNS BY CIVILAVIA IN MORE DISTANT PAST, THEY SIMPLY DO NOT ASK FOR EXTRA PASSEMGER SECTIONS EXCEPT IN HIGHLY UNUSUAL CIRCUMSTANCES. BEHAVIOUR OF PAA-TWA OVER LAST TWO YEARS HAS THEREFORE BEEN CONDITIONED BY PREVIOUS EXPERIENCE. CIVILAVIA HAS INFORMED EMBOFF ON SEVERAL OCCASIONS OF THEIR VIEW THAT NOTHING IN BILATERAL AIR TRANSPORT AGREEMENT OR MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING (MOU) DEALS DIRECTLY WITH EXTRA PASSEMGER SECTIONS AND THEREFORE COVILAVIA NOT OBLIGATED APPROVE SUCH REQUESTS.

(B) EXTRA CARGO SECTIONS. DESPITE PROVISIONS IN MOU RE

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"LIBERAL TREATMENT" BY ITALIAN AUTHORITIES OF US CARRIER

REQUESTS FOR EXTRA CARGO SECTIONS, CIVILAVIA USUALLY --BUT NOT ALWAYS-- RESPONDS TO REQUEST BY STATING THAT ALITALIA HAS SIFFICIENT SPACE AVAILABLE AND THEREFORE EXTRA SECTIONS DENIED. IN MOST CASES, EMBASSY'S INTERVENTION WITH CIVILAVIA AND/OR MINISTRY FOREIGN AFFAIRS (MFA), COUPLED WITH US CARRIER REPS APPROACH TO ALITALIA (WHO THEN INFORMS CIVILAVIA THAT ALITALIA DOES NOT IN FACT HAVE SUFFICIENT SPACE AVAILABLE), RESULT IN CIVILAVIA ULTIMATELY APPROVING EXTRA SECTION. US CARRIERS NOW REQUEST EXTRA SECTIONS FOR DAYS ON WHICH ALITALIA HAS NO RPT NO ALL-CARGO FLIGHTS SCHEDULED, WHICH HAS RESULTED IN HIGHER RATIO OF INITIAL APPROVALS. GOI INTERPRETATION OF "LIBERAL TREATMENT" APPEARS TO BE THAT APPROVAL FOR EXTRA CARGO SECTIONS IS GRANTED ONLY WHEN ALITALIA UNABLE MOVE SUCH CARGO WITHIN REASONABLE TIME.

3. GOI TAKES VIEW THAT EXTRA SECTIONS ARE MEANS OF EXPANDING CAPACITY BEYOND THAT AUTHORIZED IN APPROVED SCHEDULED AND THEREFORE EXTRA SECTIONS, BOTH CARGO AND PASSENGER, MUST BE CLOSELY CONTROLLED.

4. EMBASSY CONVINCED ONE SIGNIFICANT FACTOR IN CIVILAVIA'S CONSIDERATION OF US CARRIERS' EXTRA SECTION REQUESTS IS THAT ALITALIA PRESENTLY HAS OPEN ENDED AUTHORITY FROM CAB TO OPERATE EXTRA SECTIONS TO/FROM THE UNITED STATES. NEITHER PRIOR APPROVAL NOR PRIOR NOTIFICATION IS REQUIRED. WE THEREFORE HAVE ALMOST NO RPT NO LEVERAGE TO USE WHEN SEEKING AUTHORIZATION FOR US CARRIER EXTRA SECTION. EMBASSY BELIEVES CAB SHOULD REQUIRE PRIOR APPROVAL OF ALL ALITALIA EXTRA SECTIONS AS MEANS OF RESTORING RECIPROCITY AND BALANCING ALITALIA INFLUENCE AT CIVILAVIA. VOLPE

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